

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01840 151048Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W
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P 151010Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC GB

SUBJECT: GRAND POUBARA

REF: LIBREVILLE 1797

1. AFTER TWO DAYS' EFFORT, I FINALLY TRACKED CHAMBRIER SEPT. 15 FOR EXPLANATION OF HIS REFUSAL PROVIDE EDF PRE-LIMINARY REPORT DESPITE EARLIER PROMISE TO DO SO (LIBREVILLE 1752).

2. CHAMBRIER POLITELY INSISTED THAT I HAD "MISUNDERSTOOD" HIS INITIAL POSITION (DESPTX HE HAVING REITERATED IT SEVERAL TIMES), AND AGAIN ASKED FOR CTMI WRITTEN AGREEMENT TO PREPARE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY IN ACCORDANCE TERMS SET OUT IN LETTER WHICH WE POUCHED SEPT. 8. SINCE CTMI AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN CABLED TO US (STATE 216671) AND GIVEN ORALLY TO CHAMBRIER, I ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT LETTER FROM ME TRANSMITTING CTMI AGREEMENT AS MEANS OF SAVING TIME. HE AGREED TO DO SO, AND I SUBSEQUENTLY HAND-DELIVERED TO HIM SUCH LETTER.

3. CHAMBRIER, WHO LEAVES AFTERNOON SEPT. 15 ON WEEK'S VACATION, HAS NOW PROMISED INSTRUCT SEEG BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE TO PROVIDE US COPY OF EDF REPORT FOR FORWARDING TO CTMI. WE WILL PURSUE THIS WITH SEEG OVER NEXT FEW

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DAYS AND HOPE TO HAVE REPORT IN SEPT. 21 POUCH. CHAMBRIER

ASSURED ME THAT GOG WOULD NOT LET CONTRACT FOR ECONOMIC
FEASIBILITY STUDY UNTIL IT WAS ABLE COMPARE PROPOSALS
FROM TAMS AND CTMI, WITH LATTER TO BE ALLOWED FULL SIX
WEEKS FOR SUBMISSION FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF EDF REPORT.

4. WITH REGARD TO PROJECTED CALLS ON PRESIDENT BONGO BY
REPRESENTATIVES OF TAMS AND CTMI (STATE 225809), SUGGEST
BOTH FIRMS SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON PRESIDENT
DESIRABILITY OF HAVING BOTH ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL WORK
DONE BY SAME (HOPEFULLY AMERICAN) COMPANY. SINCE
TENTATIVE DECISION AT CHAMBRIER LEVEL IS TO SPLIT TWO
CONTRACTS, BEST HOPE OF TURNING THIS AROUND PROBABLY LIES
IN CONVINCING PRESIDENT THAT THERE IS BETTER WAY TO
ACCOMPLISH ENDS HE DESIRES. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LIBREV01840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760347-1107
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760959/aaaabyar.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LIBREVILLE 1797
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRAND POUBARA
TAGS: BENC, GB
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006